

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

REFERENCES

6 October 1955

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DATE ACQUIRED

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE:

1. Sovetsk was in an enclosed military area, and a pass was necessary to visit it. Many military personnel were on the streets of both Sovetsk and Klaipeda. Military contingents were seldom seen, but [redacted] large numbers of troops were stationed in the countryside near the [redacted]. The greater part of the truck traffic was military. [redacted] automobiles usually traveled in groups. [redacted] large railroad trains loaded with military equipment, which was covered, [redacted] went in both directions between Sovetsk and Kaliningrad.
2. There were only occasional aircraft. The people were not accustomed to seeing aircraft, and when one did appear they stopped to look at it.
3. No fortifications construction could be observed, [redacted] there were large work camps somewhere along the coast.
4. Soviet naval vessels were often seen in Klaipeda harbor. A small Polish naval ship once paid a visit. The local populace was interested mainly because the Polish seamen were well clothed.
5. All Lithuanian military uniforms have been abolished, to the dissatisfaction of the people. There were said to have been mass escapes of Lithuanian conscripts who were being transported by train for duty elsewhere in the USSR.
6. Travel to the Kaliningrad area was permitted but was rarely undertaken by any Lithuanians. Considerable construction was in progress in Kaliningrad, and there were many naval vessels in the harbor. Only Russian was spoken in Kaliningrad.

7. In Klaipeda and Sovetsk, the people, mainly Russians and Lithuanians, were inter-mixed. There were a few Germans and a smaller number of Poles. It appeared that the number of Russians was gradually increasing. Russian was spoken mainly in the cities.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X", Field distribution by "#".

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

8. All of the Lithuanians from former East Prussia who remained there after the Soviet invasion of 1945 moved back again to Lithuania. There were not very many of these, and most of them lived in the countryside. The last large deportation to the USSR took place in 1951, but smaller selective deportations continued. Those who were deported after 1951 mainly were the former kulaks and Catholic priests. A former kulak who lived on a kolkhoz was deported in the fall of 1953. He was married and had five children, but he alone was deported.
9. There was a striking class difference between high Party officials, officers, police, and big businessmen on the one hand and the remainder of the people on the other. The former were well clothed, had their own restaurants and stores, and resided in special sections in nice houses and villas. The elite lived in prewar residences in the city's outskirts and along the beach. This elite consisted mostly of Russians, with some Lithuanians. Lithuanians were not so irritated over the fact that some Lithuanians lived better than others, as they were over the fact that Russians lived better. The Lithuanians were chilly or hostile toward the Russians, although they were afraid to be openly so.
10. In general, a person had to know Russian in order to get along. Training in the primary schools was conducted in Lithuanian, but teaching of the Russian language began in the second year. It was easy to travel to Vilnius or to the USSR.

Communist Party and Komsomol

11. [REDACTED]
12. The CPSU and Komsomol were very unpopular among Lithuanian youth, especially in the countryside. [REDACTED] a youth who belonged to the Komsomol had been shot or flogged by bandits. Terror and denunciation were reported to be so strong that people generally did not attempt to join the Komsomol. Many times youths who become members of the Komsomol disappeared completely. During the night, a group of so-called partisans would seize a new Komsomol member and take him to the woods to shoot him. This also happened, though less often, in the case of older Party members.
13. It was different in the cities, but even there it was difficult to discern any trend among the people to speak in favor of the Komsomol. All Party or Komsomol members were more or less isolated, because people were very careful when they talked to them or else tried to avoid intercourse with them. However, even non-Party members were obliged to take part in Party meetings at their places of employment. Foremen did not make any apparent distinction between Party and non-Party members, but everyone knew that Party members had greater career possibilities.

Religion

14. The majority of the population in the countryside and on the outskirts of the cities were still good Catholics. The Catholic churches in the Wilkiskai (sic) and Taurage (N 53-15, E 22-15) areas were empty because they lacked priests. The Protestant churches had been put to other uses, mainly as warehouses. [REDACTED]
15. Most of the Catholic priests had been deported, but there were some who still remained. These priests lived incognito, working as peasants on kolkhozes or as civil servants in the countryside. The people knew who the priests were but did not betray them. A peasant on one kolkhoz had a room in his cottage which he arranged as a chapel and to which a priest came occasionally to hold mass and

[REDACTED]

confession. Such masses were well attended but the authorities knew nothing about them. Most of the children on the kolkhoz received a Catholic education from their mothers.

Agriculture

16. There was poverty on the kolkhoz and no one wanted to work. The people only sat or moved slowly in order to pass the time. The kolkhoz peasants had their own private plots of ground where they planted potatoes and vegetables and from which they gained their main livelihood. The plots of ground were between 1/10 and 1/5 hectare, depending upon the farmer class to which a person belonged. Theoretically, each peasant on a kolkhoz could have a cow, pigs, and hens. In practice, however, the peasants did not own cows because the animals could only be fed during the summer when they could be grazed with the cows of the kolkhoz. During the winter, the peasant got his fodder from the kolkhoz, but it was never sufficient.
17. The payment for a day's work was given in the form of unmilled rye or wheat. However, there was a lack of fuel and the peasant could, therefore, seldom bake bread. The common bakery on one kolkhoz could not operate because of the fuel shortage. The forests in this area were in quite poor condition. The peasants on the kolkhoz generally purchased bread in the cities or exchanged bread grains for bread. Informant believed that this was one of the main reasons why the youth and workers attempted to get industrial jobs and move to the cities.

Commodity Prices

18. It was impossible to buy food, even bread, without standing in a queue. Black bread cost 1.30 rubles per kilo, and white bread was about double this price. Butter cost 30 rubles a kilo, and sugar, fat, and meat were difficult to purchase. A pair of woman's shoes cost 300 rubles. Women's underclothes cost from eight to 12 rubles, and a pair of socks, from eight to 12 rubles. An ample dinner in a restaurant cost five rubles. A liter of 45-percent vodka cost 30 rubles, while vodka with less alcoholic content cost less. Green liquor cost 45 rubles. People in the countryside made their own liquor, which was very strong, but good. If a person was caught making his own liquor, he was subject to two years' imprisonment. The punishment was served in Lithuania, and only political criminals were deported to the USSR.

Partisan Resistance

19. There were still partisans in the forests, and people talked about them. They had weapons and ammunition, and it was often said that they attacked the people. The authorities and the press called them bandits, but the people called them partisans. Informant believed their actions to be of a political nature, shooting Communists, and never heard that partisans had been found guilty of common robbery or murder for economic purposes. It was said that there were partisans in the forests quite near Taurage.
20. The majority of the people did not believe that political conditions were permanent. They talked frequently about the next war when, they believed, the Soviets would be forced to retreat and Lithuania would be free again. Rumors of this type occasionally circulated. In informant's opinion, this was the reason why conscripts escaped into the forests.
21. [REDACTED]

Conditions in Fishing Industry

22. [redacted] fishing boat, the work day was 12 hours, and the wages were between 1,200 and 1,500 rubles a month. The work was heavy, but there was sufficient food and the conditions in general were good. During the evenings, the workers often had music and dances, and films were also shown. Most of these were patriotic Soviet films, but even foreign, Polish and American, films were shown.

The only American films shown were Tarzan films.

23. [redacted] a Polish fishing vessel. This boat had a Polish crew, only the workers were Soviets. The captain and the Polish seamen were well clothed. The food was better than on a Soviet boat. The raw fish was delivered to the mother ship from Polish fishing boats, both trawlers and cutters. The Polish seamen worked hard, because they believed that the fish would be transported to Poland. However, when the cold-storage hold was filled, the boat put in at Klaipeda and all the fish were loaded on railroad cars which departed for the interior of the USSR. On one occasion, the ship put in at Odynia, but Soviet workers were not allowed to go ashore.

1. [redacted] Comment: The town of Vilkysiai (N 55-55, E 21-40) may be meant. There is a Vilkiskiai (N 55-32, E 23-17), but this is considerably inland of the area otherwise covered in the report.

LIBRARY SUBJECT AND AREA CODES

(30)

B-02-000	10/55
728.1	154
811.7	634
811.7	154
850.01	154
138.2	634
812.211	154(N)
812.211	N(15)
114.611	154
114.714	154
107.4	154
722.101	154
781.11	154
781.12	154
111.22	154
111.64	154
762.201	154
762.101	154
111.2	154
111.61	154
812.4	154
114.28	154
891	154
755.76	634
754.74	634
230.1	154

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